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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING RIZATRIPTAN

(57) Abstract: In particular, rizatriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which includes a) Preparation of the diazo-  
nium salt of the aniline hydrochloride (II); followed by reduction and acidification to give the hydrazine (III); b) reaction in situ of  
the hydrazine hydrochloride (III) with  $\alpha$ -keto- $\delta$ -valerolactone, to give the hydrazone (IV); c) Fischer indole reaction of the hydra-  
zone (IV), to give the pyranindolone (V), optionally followed by a hydrolysis reaction to give (VI); d) Transesterification of (V)  
or esterification of its hydrolysis product (VI), to give (VII), where R means straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain; e) Conversion  
of the hydroxyl group of (VII) into dimethylamino, to give the indolecarboxylate (VIII), where R has the meaning defined above;  
f) Saponification of the 2-carboalkoxy group of (VIII) to give indolecarboxylic acid (IX); and g) Decarboxylation of the indolecar-  
boxylic acid (IX) to give rizatriptan and, eventually, to obtain a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. The invention also relates  
to synthesis intermediates to obtain rizatriptan.

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